

Community Focus

# Sheridan Park an oasis of fun on northsid

Ts JUL 22 1984

Parks & Recreation (WC)

Community Affairs File

SHERIDAN PARK

## One of three city pools gets heavy workout

By Dave Delaney  
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

Poolside fun is taking center stage at Terre Haute's Sheridan Park during these hot weeks of summer.

"The neighborhood kids really give our pool a workout," said Lisa Barcus, manager of the city park located at 28th and Beech Street. On a recent sunny afternoon the park was alive with splashing youngsters jumping off the sides of the pool and into the refreshing water as the thermometer rose above 90.

The more daring youngsters entered the pool from the one-meter diving board at one end of the pool. And for the toddlers, there's a kiddie pool with no deep spots. Pool hours are noon to 6 p.m. seven days a week.

Besides the popular pool — one of three in the city park system — Sheridan Park also has one softball diamond, one baseball diamond, a basketball court, playground equipment, a shuffleboard court, a picnic shelter with fireplace and several picnic tables. The park is at 28th and Beech streets.

"It seems we've had a lot more softball leagues playing at our fields," said Barcus, a recent Indiana State University graduate who's supervised the seven park employees for two years. Sunday is game day for church leagues; the other leagues play during the week.

Sharon Horne gives swimming lessons at 10:30 to 11:30 each morning to all age groups. A group from the local cerebral palsy organization uses the pool every Wednesday morning, said Barcus. "Happiness Bag came out for several years to use our pool," she added.

Barcus said a considerable



Diving in: The swimming pool at Sheridan Park is rippling with activity these warm summer days.

Tribune-Star/Jim Avelis

amount of work was done on the pool two years ago to include a new filter and drainage system.

Kids using the pool seem to be enjoying themselves. "This is a fun park," said Carol Dickerson, 10, who'd just climbed out of the pool and was walking around drying off in the warm sun. "I come every day to swim except when it rains. The life guards are real nice here."

Ten-year-old Brook Keegan is apparently another satisfied pool customer. "This is a nice, big pool," he said. "I like to go off the diving board." Keegan said he also enjoys using Sheridan Park's basketball court, but says, "I'm not very good at it."

Basketball games at the park are often of the pickup type and go on sporadically spring through fall.

"We have three fellows who are recreational supervisors at the park," said Barcus. "They get baseball and basketball games going and also keep an eye on the park."

James Ross is the Sheridan Park caretaker. "We haven't had any trouble at the park this year," he said. "It's been a real good year." He said the vast majority of park

users have demonstrated respect for the northeast side neighborhood park.

Ann Tillotson of the local parks department said arts and crafts are taught at Sheridan Park every Wednesday from 1-4 p.m. where they make such things as paintings and jewelry using odds and ends.

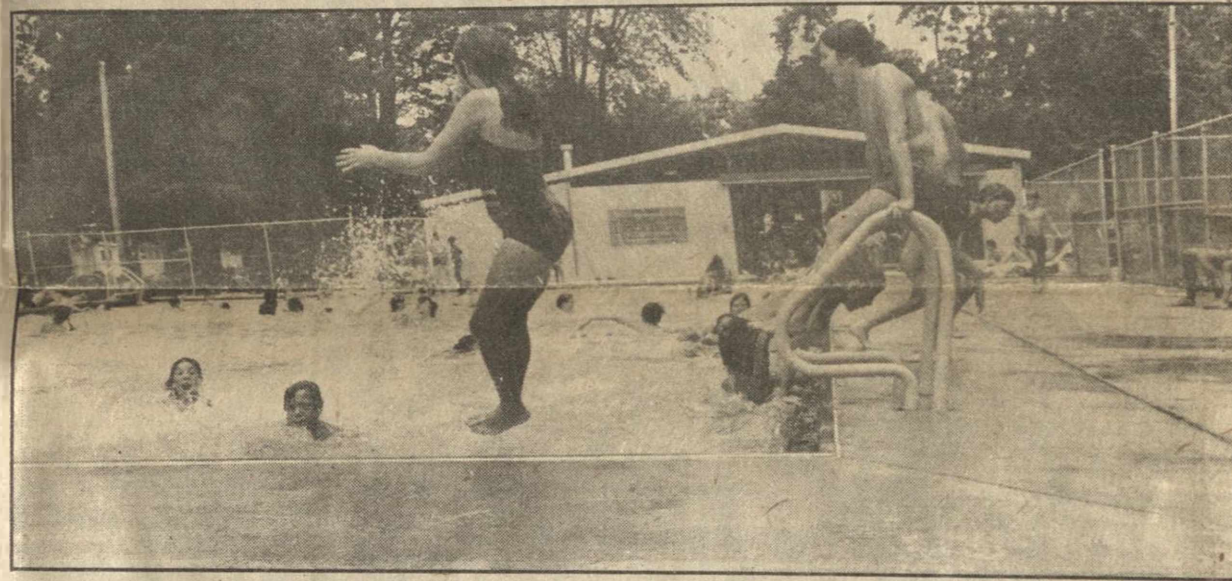
The Vigo County Extension Service's Food and Fun program

visits Sheridan Park every Tuesday from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Linda Byerly directs this program in which children learn about nutrition in a fun way.

Snacks — such as carrot sticks — are sometimes provided, while occasionally a quick and easy snack is heated up. They also play nutritionally motivated games including Nutrition Bingo.



And the pitch... Steve Frederick waits for the ball to arrive at home plate on one of the park's ball diamonds.



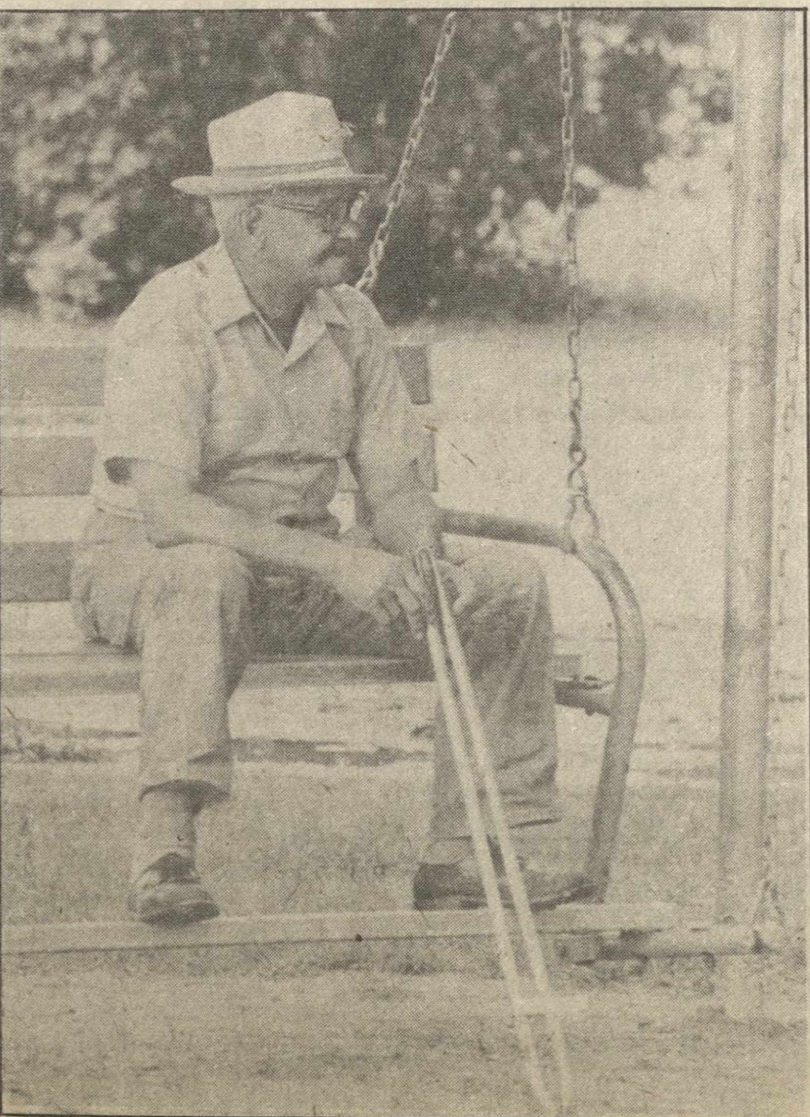
Splashing around: Besides being a spot to cool off, the pool also affords a place to meet old friends and new.

*"This is a fun park. I come every day to swim except when it rains. The life guards are real nice here."*

—Carol Dickerson

*"This is a nice, big pool. I like to go off the diving board."*

—Brook Keegan



Relaxation, recreation: Park caretaker James Ross [left], trash collecting tool in hand, takes a break from his work in a family-sized swing, while Nick Perrelle, Eric Reedy, Tom McCullough and Sean Keohane (the foursome under the basket) watch to see if Ernie Barnett's shot from the corner will rip the nets.



# Park Perspective



by Patrick Ralston  
Community Affairs File  
City Parks Superintendent

## Sheridan Park

*Parks + Recreation (Vc)*  
*T.H. Gazette 3-29-85*  
The park featured this week is Sheridan Park, located at 2825 Buckeye Street, on Terre Haute's northeast side. Sheridan Park has a total of 6.5 acres which are located in a heavily residential area.

On November 17, 1922, Frank R. Miller, Felix Blankenbaker, Albert R. Owens and Charles R. Owens donated the property now known as Sheridan Park. The property was to be used forever as a park for the perpetual enjoyment of the citizens of Terre Haute. The City of Terre Haute in return for the gift was to maintain the property in a proper manner as a public park.

In 1937 the residents of the Sheridan Park area petitioned the City of Terre Haute for playground equipment. Park lighting was also installed, as well as a horseshoe court, a volleyball court and a softball diamond. The W.P.A. installed all new sidewalks and a temporary restroom.

Community Affairs File

REFERENCE  
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Vigo County Public Library

In 1944 a total of \$132.39 was spent on park maintenance. In 1944 the Sheridan Park was not operated by the city as a Park due to lack of funds. In 1945 the park was reopened for the public to enjoy.

In 1962 a swimming pool was constructed at Sheridan Park and was totally renovated in 1981 by the Park Department with funding from the Department of Redevelopment. In 1980 a new shelter/restroom building was constructed to replace the existing restroom which had deteriorated over the years.

In the summer, Sheridan Park is used for T-Ball for youngsters as well as softball for various church groups. There is a half basketball court which is also heavily used by neighborhood children. There currently is one football goal at the south end of the park.

Sheridan Park is a good neighborhood park which has served the area residents for over sixty years. Hopefully new sidewalks and curbs can be added in the future which will help with drainage.



**HOW'D YOU DO THAT?** — Neighborhood children watch in amazement as Phillip Greenberg makes lifelike figures out of blocks of soap. Greenberg, 2406 N. 7th St., has volunteered his time to teach soap carving as part of the Terre Haute Park and Recreation Department summer recreation program in the neighborhood parks. Watching Greenberg Friday in Sheridan Park were, left to right, his daughter, Katie, Paul Walters and Craig Black. Greenberg said he started soap carving as a child and now works mostly with wood carving, except when teaching the children in the parks.

JUL 12 1976

House of Photography Photo

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Sheridan Park

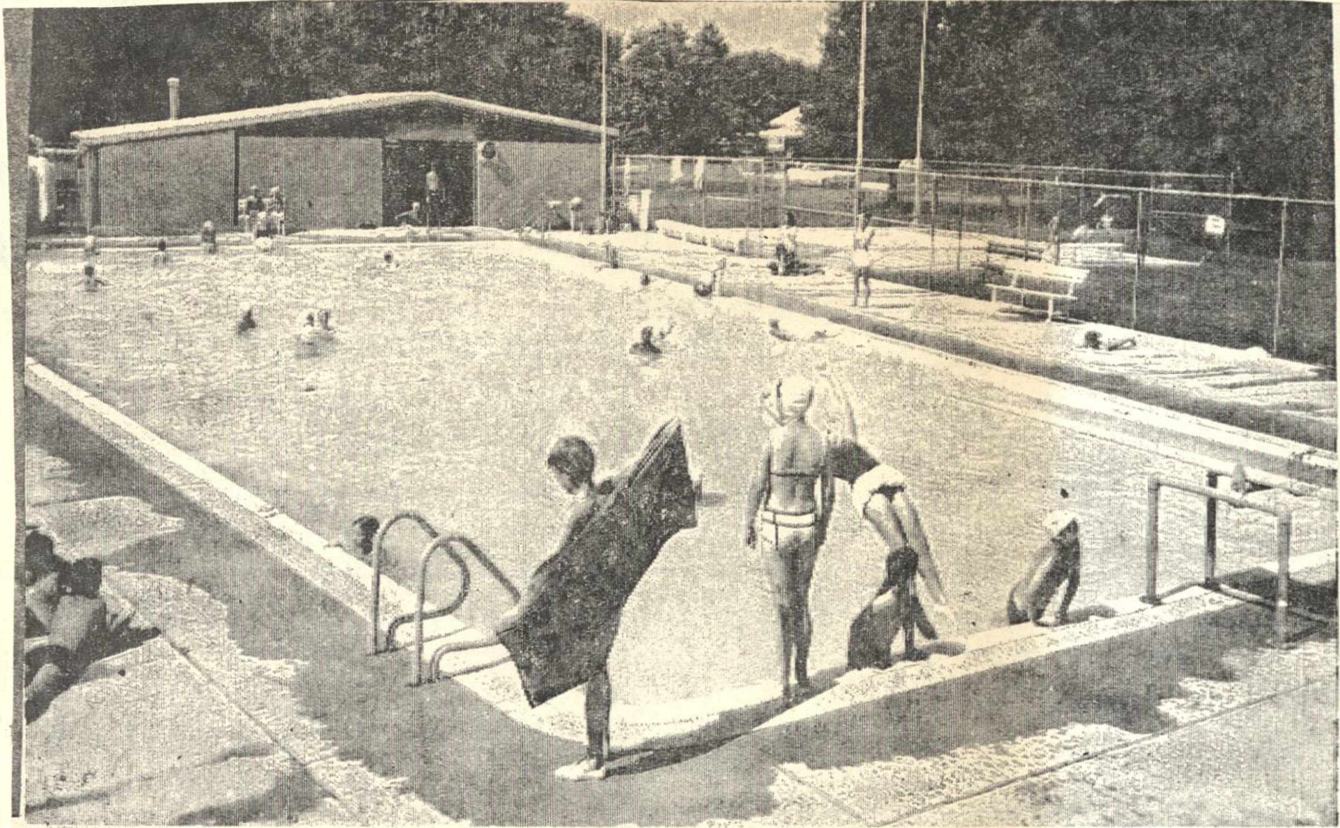
Trip-Star 6-28-42

## BIG PLAYGROUND AREA AT SHERIDAN

One of the newer parks in the Terre Haute system is Sheridan Park, located at Twenty-eighth and Beech streets.

Playground equipment of this park furnish such diversifications as horseshoe, ball and softball. Many improvements have been made to the place during the past several months, making it an enjoyable place for small children as well as adults. Some of the improvements include installation of a new drinking fountain, building of a new rest room and a tool house.

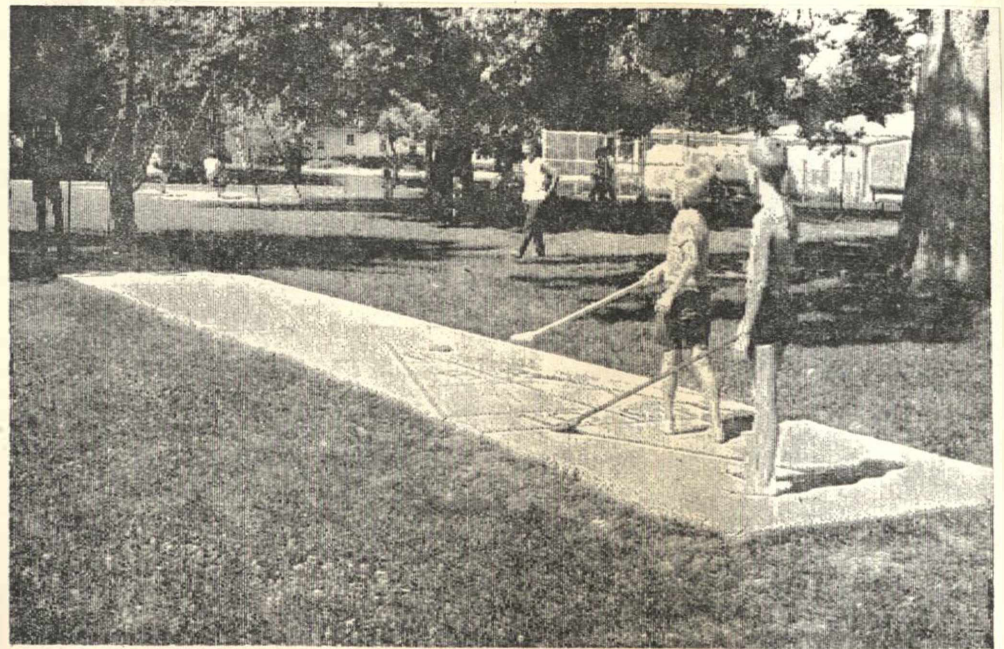
Sheridan Park, made possible through the assistance of the WPA, has been maintained by the parks department since its establishment.



THE MODERN SWIMMING POOL at Sheridan Park is a far cry from the ol' swimmin' hole, and a good deal safer. Lifeguards are on duty at all times when the pool is open.

In the background is a wading pool for the very young.  
Photo by Martin.

7-7-68 T.H. In Star



PLAYING SHUFFLEBOARD is one of the many attractions at Sheridan Park. In the left background is part of the playground area, and at the right is the filtering system for the swimming pool.

Photo by Martin.

# Sheridan Park



the Terre Haute Park Department, is in full swing at Sheridan and Voorhees. Activities will continue through Aug. 1.

The general appearance of the parks has been improved over the past few months. The pride and joy of the park board are the 550 walnut, maple, gum and hickory trees planted at Voorhees Park last spring.

As many as 400 persons have taken dips in each of the two pools in one day. The fee is 50 cents for adults, and 25 cents for children under 16 years old. Clean, comfortable dressing rooms are provided, along with clothing baskets. Both pools are open seven days a week, from 12:30 p.m. to 5 p.m., and again from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., during the warm weather months.

The summer recreation program, which began June 25, includes Sheridan and Voorhees as general recreation areas, meaning the activities include volleyball, deck tennis, croquet, tetherball, badminton and games of low organization. The hours are from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. weekdays. Crafts are

available Thursday afternoons at Sheridan, and Friday afternoons at Voorhees.

#### Given to City

Sheridan Park was donated to the city in 1922 by the Sheridan Park Co., whose principals were Attorneys Felix Blankenbaker, Frank R. Miller and Albert R. Owens, and Owens' brother, Dr. Charles W. Owens of Indianapolis.

Attorney Owens, who served for many years as a judge in the Vigo County Superior Courts, died in 1966—but his son, Albert F. Owens, deputy county prosecutor, recalls some of the early history of the Sheridan Park area.

The 6.5-acre park was named for Gen. Philip H. Sheridan, one of the great Union commanders in the Civil War. Owens says he suspects that Blankenbaker was a staunch admirer of General Sheridan, and subsequently suggested the park's name.

It's interesting to note that in 1924, the Sheridan Park Co. sent a letter to the board of park commissioners, chastising the park department for failure to have proper lighting and otherwise to maintain the park as agreed upon in the transfer of the deed from the company to the city.

Sheridan Park boasts a spacious diamond for baseball and softball-playing. The park area is fenced in to help keep fly balls from getting away and also to provide safety for the small fry who sometimes wander away unnoticed by Mom and Dad.

#### Unusual Play Equipment

Both parks offer the usual

playground equipment, including slides, swings, teeter-totters, monkey bars, horseshoes and shuffle board courts. There's also plenty of space available at either park for family outings on a Sunday afternoon.

The summer recreation program, sponsored jointly by the Vigo County School Corp. and

Before the Sheridan Park area was subdivided, the property was part of the McKeen farm. The area at that time was about half woods and half wheatfields. The Johnson brothers landed planes in the field, to the dismay of the McKeen family.